

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) In a network system including a cedent and one or more assumers, wherein a negotiation for reinsurance of a risk is conducted between the cedent and the one or more assumers, a method for facilitating the negotiation for reinsurance of a risk, comprising:

receiving a submission of a risk for reinsurance from a cedent, the submission including a risk record describing the origin of the risk for which reinsurance is being sought, the risk record constructed from cedent collected information entered by the cedent into the system based on the cedent's association with the risk;

conveying the submission to selected assumers of reinsurance risks;

receiving one or more responses to the submission from selected assumers to whom the submission was conveyed, the received responses indicative of one or more assumers that are interested in negotiating for or concluding reinsurance of the risk;

conveying the received responses to the cedent;

receiving a reply from the cedent for ~~at least one~~ a received response from an assumer interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk, the reply altering the risk record for the submission with respect to the assumer; and

concluding the negotiation such that the risk is either bound or the negotiation is terminated without binding the risk.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising allowing additional responses from the one or more assumers necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 further comprising allowing additional replies from the cedent to one or more assumers necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation with each assumer.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising monitoring the stages of the negotiation including the submission, the responses from the one or more assumers, and the replies from the cedent.

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4 further comprising providing an interface for viewing the stages of the negotiation and allowing input of the submission, responses, and replies.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the additional replies from the cedent comprises tailored replies responsive to one or more responses from one or more assumers.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the tailored reply provided to one assumers is isolated from tailored reply provided to another assumer such that one cedent can privately conduct multiple unique threads of negotiation with multiple assumers so as to isolate negotiations with different assumers from one another.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein the reply provided to one assumer is not isolated from tailored reply provided to another assumer such that one cedent can conduct a negotiation with multiple assumers simultaneously to build consensus and obtained reinsurance capacity by syndication between multiple assumers.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein concluding a negotiation comprises binding reinsurance of the risk submitted by the cedent.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein upon binding reinsurance of a risk the assumer offers the risk to one or more assumers of reinsurance risk in a reinsurance market subject to the terms of the agreement with the cedent.

11. (Original) A method a recited in claim 1 wherein the act of conveying a submission to one or more potential assumers of reinsurance risk comprises conveying the submission to all of the potential assumers identified by the cedent as assumers to whom conveyance of the submission is required.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the act of conveying a submission to one or more assumers of reinsurance risk comprises conveying the submission to one or more of the assumers identified by the cedent as assumers to whom conveyance of the submission is permitted.

13. (Currently Amended) In a system including a cedent and one or more assumers wherein a negotiation for reinsurance of a risk is conducted between the cedent and the one or more assumers, a method for facilitating the negotiation, comprising the acts of:

receiving a submission of a risk for reinsurance, the submission including a risk record describing the origin of the risk for which reinsurance is being sought, the risk record constructed from cedent collected information entered by a cedent into the system based on the cedent's association with the risk;

conveying the submission to one or more assumers of reinsurance risks;

receiving one or more responses to the submission from one or more of the assumers to whom the submission was conveyed, the received responses indicative of one or more assumers that are interested in negotiating for or concluding reinsurance of the risk, wherein each received response comprises one of an offer, a counteroffer, a quote, a plurality of alternative quotes, a refusal to quote, a request for additional information, or an acceptance of a request to bind;

conveying the one or more responses to the cedent;

receiving additional replies from the cedent, wherein each reply comprises one of a resubmission of the risk for reinsurance, an acceptance of a quote, a request to bind a risk, a counteroffer, a refusal of a quote, additional information, or an offer based on the respective responses from the one or more assumers;

determining at each stage of the negotiation whether additional responses from the potential assumers or additional replies from the cedent are necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation;

selectively receiving additional responses or replies based on the determination of whether additional responses or reply are necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation; and

monitoring the stages of the negotiation including the submission, the responses from the one or more potential assumers, and the replies from the cedent; and

providing an interface for viewing the stages of the negotiation and allowing additional responses and reply for continuing or concluding the negotiation.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the act of determining at each stage of the negotiation whether additional responses from the potential assumers or additional replies from the cedent are necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation comprises determining independently for each assumer whether additional responses from the assumer or additional replies to the assumer are necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation with the assumer.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the interface comprises a cedent homepage.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the cedent homepage includes one or more fields for receiving responses from one or more assumers wherein the one or more fields comprise one or more of the following: a quotes to review field, a messages to review field, and an endorsements field.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the cedent homepage includes interactive listings for accessing expanded coverage of reinsurance negotiations.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17 wherein the cedent homepage includes buttons for submitting a reply to one or more responses.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15 wherein the cedent homepage includes a link to a submissions homepage wherein the submissions homepage allows a cedent to input submission information and provides information related to one or more submissions previously input.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the interface comprises an assumer homepage.

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 18 wherein the assumer homepage includes fields for providing responses to submissions and replies received from one or more cedents with whom the assumer is negotiating and fields for monitoring various stages of each negotiation for reinsurance of a risk.

22. (Currently Amended) In a cedent system, a method for monitoring negotiations for reinsurance of a risk, comprising the acts of:

submitting information for reinsurance of a risk, the information for reinsurance of the risk including a risk record describing the origin of the risk for which reinsurance is being sought, the risk record constructed from cedent collected information entered by a cedent into the cedent system based on the cedent's association with the risk;

receiving one or more responses to the submission from one or more of the potential assumers to whom the submission was conveyed, the received responses indicative of one or more assumers that are interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk, wherein the each response comprises one of an offer, a counteroffer, a quote, a plurality of alternative quotes, a refusal to quote, or an acceptance of a request to bind;

submitting a reply to the response from one or more of the potential assumers wherein the reply comprises one of a resubmission of the risk for reinsurance, an acceptance of a quote, a request to bind a risk, a counteroffer, a refusal of a quote, or an offer based on the respective responses from the one or more of the potential assumers;

allowing additional responses and submitting additional replies necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation;

monitoring the information and replies submitted and the responses received; and

maintaining an interface for viewing the information and replies submitted and the responses received.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk further comprises the act of classifying policy information of the risk to be reinsured.

24. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the act of classifying policy information further comprises the act of selecting a policy class.

25. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the act of classifying the policy information further comprises the act of selecting a policy type.

26. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the act of classifying the policy information further comprises selecting a template for inputting policy information.

27. (Original) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein the act of classifying policy information of the risk to be reinsured comprises:

selecting a policy class;

selecting a policy type from a subset of policy types within the policy class;

selecting a template for inputting policy information, the template tailored to the policy type; and

inputting policy information into the selected template.



28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk further comprises the act of classifying reinsurance being sought.

29. (Original) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein the act of classifying reinsurance being sought comprises selecting a reinsurance type.

30. (Original) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein the act of classifying reinsurance being sought further comprises selecting perils for which reinsurance is sought.

31. (Original) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein the act of classifying reinsurance being sought further comprises selecting a currency for the reinsurance being sought.

32. (Original) The method as recited in 28 wherein the act of classifying reinsurance being sought comprises:

selecting a reinsurance type;

selecting perils on which reinsurance is sought; and

selecting a currency for the reinsurance being sought.

33. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk includes inputting policy information of the insurance policy for which reinsurance is being sought.

34. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk includes inputting underwriting information for the policy for which reinsurance is being sought.

35. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk includes inputting preferred terms of reinsurance being requested.

36. (Original) The method as recited in claim 22 wherein the act of submitting information for reinsurance of a risk further comprises attaching a file to the risk information to be submitted.

37. (Currently Amended) In an assumer system, a method for monitoring negotiations for reinsurance of a risk, comprising the acts of:

receiving a submission for a risk of reinsurance from a cedent, the submission including a risk record describing the origin of the risk for which reinsurance is being sought, the risk record constructed from cedent collected information entered by a cedent based on the cedent's association with the risk;

providing a response to the submission from the cedent wherein the response comprises one of an offer, a counteroffer, a quote, a plurality of alternative quotes, a refusal to quote, a request for additional information, or an acceptance of a request to bind, the response indicative of an interest in negotiating for or concluding reinsurance of the risk;

receiving the submission of a reply from the cedent wherein the reply comprises one of a resubmission of the risk for reinsurance, an acceptance of a quote, a request to bind a risk, a counteroffer, a refusal to of a quote, additional information, or an offer based on the contents of the previous response;

providing additional responses and allowing additional replies necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation;

monitoring the information exchanged during various stages of the negotiation, wherein the information exchanged includes submissions of risks received, submission of replies received, and responses provided to the submissions during negotiations for reinsurance of a risk; and

maintaining an interface for facilitating the negotiation the interface allowing viewing information exchanged during various stages of the negotiation and allowing the exchange of additional information.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 further comprising the act of submitting an endorsement to the cedent to request an alteration of the terms agreed upon by the parties during the negotiation.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38 further comprising the act of receiving from the cedent a reply to the submission of the endorsement wherein the reply comprises either an acceptance or a rejection of the altered terms of the agreement.

40. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for implementing, in a network system, that includes a cedent and one or more assumers and also includes a processing device for receiving and conveying data, a method for facilitating negotiations for reinsurance of a risk, the computer program product comprising:

a computer-readable medium carrying computer-executable instructions for implementing the method, wherein the computer-executable instructions, when executed, cause the processing device to perform the acts of:

receiving at the processing device input from a cedent, the input representative of a risk record describing the origin of the risk for which reinsurance is being sought, the input entered by the cedent into the processing device based on the cedent's association with the risk;

conveying the reply to one or more potential assumers;

receiving at the processing device a response from one or more potential assumers to whom input from the cedent was conveyed, the received responses indicative of one or more potential assumers that are interested in negotiating for or concluding reinsurance of the risk; and

allowing additional input from the cedent necessary to continue or conclude the negotiation, including altering the risk record with respect to specified potential assumers based on the responses from those specified potential assumers to thereby negotiate with the specified potential assumers; and

providing an interface that permits users to view input and responses provided at various stages of the negotiation.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising the act of requiring the cedent to take action with respect to a group of responses related to a given submission before continuing or concluding the negotiation.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the act of requiring the cedent to take action with respect to a group of responses comprises requiring a cedent to decline all outstanding offers before binding a risk.

43. (Original) The method of claim 40 further comprising the act of maintaining a file for holding a cedent's unassumed submissions and assumed reinsurance risks wherein the file permits the cedent to access information related to the unassumed submissions and the assumed reinsurance risks.

44. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein concluding the negotiation such that the risk is either bound or the negotiation is terminated without binding the risk comprises iteratively changing the state of the negotiation between the cedent and the assumer interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk based on the content of further responses and replies as the further responses and replies are exchanged.

45. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving one or more responses to the submission from selected assumers to whom the submission was conveyed reinsurance of the risk comprises receiving a response from an assumer that requests additional

information from the cedent and wherein conveying the received responses to the cedent comprises conveying the request for additional information to the cedent.

46. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving a reply from the cedent for a received response from an assumer interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk comprises an act of receiving a request from the cedent, the request requesting more information from the assumer interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk.

47. (New) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein receiving a reply from the cedent for a received response from an assumer interested in negotiating for reinsurance of the risk comprises an act of receiving a counteroffer from the cedent.